

## Message Text

SECRET

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61

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

P - MR. SISCO

S/S - FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 091585

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ABOUT INTERVENTION IN LEBANON

1. PLEASE CONVEY FOLLOWING TO PRESIDENCY.
2. TODAY'S PRESS CARRIES STORIES LINKING RABIN'S COMMENTS YESTERDAY THAT THERE IS A "RED LINE" IN LEBANON THAT SYRIA CANNOT CROSS WITHOUT RISKING ISRAELI MILITARY INTERVENTION, WITH MY RESPONSES TO PRESS QUERIES ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION FOLLOWING MY HILL APPEARANCE YESTERDAY IN WHICH I EXPRESSED OPINION THAT SYRIA WAS GETTING CLOSE TO THE BORDER LINE WHICH WOULD BRING ISRAELI INTERVENTION. WASHINGTON POST JUXTAPOSES THESE TWO REPORTS UNDER JOINT COMMON HEADLINE THAT "KISSINGER, RABIN, CAUTION SYRIA ON LEBANON ACTION."
3. SUCH PRESS TREATMENT IS BOTH MISLEADING AND IRRESPONSIBLE THERE WAS NO LINKAGE OR COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO STORIES AND THEIR APPEARANCE ON SAME DAY WAS TOTALLY COINCIDENTAL.
4. I ISSUED NO REPEAT NO STATEMENT ABOUT LEBANESE SITUATION. I WAS ASKED BY SENATORS AT AN APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ABOUT REPORTS OF SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON. IN RESPONDING, I SOUGHT

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TO CONVEY WHAT HAS BEEN OUR PUBLIC POSITION FOR SOME

TIME -- NAMELY, THAT MILITARY INTERVENTION IN LEBANON  
RISKS GENERATING COUNTER-INTERVENTION. I ALSO MADE  
POINT DURING SENATE HEARING, AGAIN IN RESPONSE TO  
QUESTIONS, THAT I CONSIDERED THE OVERALL SITUATION HAD  
IMPROVED IN PAST FEW WEEKS. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, CA T-B  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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